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## Book Notices

### EXCAVATIONS AT JERICHO<sup>1</sup>

This work<sup>1</sup> contains the results of the excavations of Sellin and his associates at Jericho. The digging occupied three weeks in the spring of 1907, and three months in each of the years 1908 and 1909. While it was impossible in this time to explore the whole mound, enough was discovered to reveal the history of the culture of the site. Beneath the Canaanite ruins the remains of a prehistoric wall were discovered. As this could not be explored without destroying later strata, it is not known what it had to reveal. Further work should be done on this early stratum. In view of the rich contribution to anthropology made by the excavation of Gezer, it is a pity that, when on the verge of similar discoveries at Jericho, the exploration was not carried through.

The wall of the Canaanite city was traced on the north, west, and a part of the south sides. On the east it had entirely disappeared. From the outline of this wall it appears that the whole site of pre-Israelitish Jericho was but little larger than the Colosseum at Rome. This, however, is not surprising, as the space occupied by all the cities of that period which have been explored was small. In the ruins of this period a jar-handle, stamped with an Egyptian scarab of the Middle Kingdom, was found. At the northern end a Canaanite fortress, surrounded by two walls, was discovered. These walls were both of brick, resting on stone foundations. The outer wall was of later construction than the inner, and was much the stronger. At intervals small cross-walls connected them. Into the city wall towers had at some time been inserted, after the manner of those found at Gezer. This Canaanite city was destroyed by a siege in which all the woodwork had been burned. Sellin thinks it may have been the Habiri of the El-Amarna period, whom he identifies with the Hebrews, at whose hands the city suffered. This destruction was followed by a long period of ruin.

When the Israelites rebuilt Jericho, they made it a more extensive city. They smoothed the ruins into terraces and erected their houses upon them. A child's body under one of the houses, together with the shreds of an amphora, pointed to the ninth century as the beginning of the Israelite occupation. This accords with the statement in I Kings 16:34, that Hiel rebuilt Jericho in the reign of Ahab. A large fortress or palace belonging to this period was discovered, which Sellin conjectures may have been built

<sup>1</sup> *Jericho, die Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen.* Dargestellt von Ernst Sellin und Carl Watzinger. Mit 4 Tafeln, sowie 550 Abbildungen im Text und auf 45 Blättern. Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, 1913. iv + 190 + 45 Blättern, folio. M. 66.

by Hiel. The general style of its architecture resembles the Hittite buildings. After an occupation of about 200 years the city was again destroyed, perhaps at the time of Sennacherib's invasion.

Jericho was again reoccupied in Jewish times. The pottery found here is characteristic of that from the sixth century to the Greek period. In late Jewish time jar-handles stamped with Jah and Jahu were discovered. This city figures in Maccabaeen history, and was destroyed by Vespasian about 70 A.D. It was rebuilt by Hadrian and afterward Justinian built a guest-house there. Traces of this Byzantine occupation were found. Above the ruins of this last-mentioned time were found only Moslem graves.

The publication of the work is well executed. The illustrations are copious and well done. One only regrets that the excavation was abandoned before the whole mound was turned over. In reality the digging covered but a fraction of it. No sanctuary was found, though Jericho, like Taanach, Megiddo, and Gezer, must have had its high place. Stone idols from the Canaanite strata, and a clay idol from the Israelitish, are earnest of this. It is to be hoped that at some time the work may be reopened and completed.

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#### A NEW INTRODUCTORY HANDBOOK OF EGYPTIAN<sup>1</sup>

It is a very remarkable fact that whereas the layman can find convenient and well-arranged handbooks in the English language, which will introduce him to the various languages of Western Asia, he will search in vain for any such introductory guide to Egyptian in English. This is the more extraordinary because Egyptian hieroglyphic is the one picturesque system of ancient writing which most easily attracts the attention and rouses the interest of the cultivated student or the casual tourist. Moreover, Egypt is the one land of the ancient Orient which is the paradise of the greatest number of modern tourists. The writer has met scores of travelers on the Nile who were endeavoring to gain some slight knowledge of the picturesque writing which covers the vast walls of the Egyptian temples. Such attempts were always based upon the scanty outlines offered in the guide-books, or on a primer which represents a state of knowledge a generation or two old.

A generation of epoch-making study of Egyptian grammar at the hands of German scholars, led by Erman, has found absolutely no reflection in the available books of instruction in English, unless we except the English version of the first edition of Erman's *Grammar*, now, unhappily, twenty years old.

With the purpose of meeting the need for such a book in Germany, and also of supplying the student with a less expensive volume than the

<sup>1</sup> *Ägyptisch. Praktische Einführung in die Hieroglyphen und die ägyptische Sprache, mit Lesestücken und Wörterbuch*, von Günther Roeder. Munich: C. H. Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1913.